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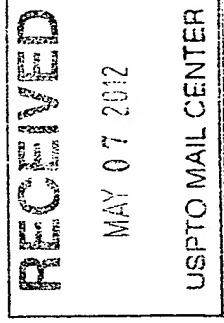
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APR 23 2012

## OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 6,569,277 :  
Issue Date: May 27, 2003 :  
Application No. 09/778,597 :  
Filed: February 7, 2001 :  
Attorney Docket No. 20010001.US :  
ON PETITION

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.378(c), filed April 9, 2012, to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of a maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

This patent expired at midnight May 27, 2011, for failure to pay the 7½ year maintenance fee. Since this petition was submitted within twenty-four months after the six-month grace period provided in 37 CFR 1.362(e), the petition was timely filed under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.378(c).

The petition is hereby **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is hereby accepted and the above-identified patent is reinstated as of the mail date of this decision.

A petition to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of a maintenance fee under 37 CFR 1.378(c) must be accompanied by (1) a statement that the delay was unintentional, (2) payment of the appropriate maintenance fee, unless previously submitted, and (3) payment of the surcharge set forth in 37 CFR

The address given on the petition differs from the address of record. A courtesy copy of this decision is being mailed to the address noted on the petition. However, until otherwise instructed, all future correspondence regarding this application will be mailed solely to the address of record.

Petitioner will not receive future correspondence related to maintenance fees for the patent unless a "Fee Address" Indication Form (see PTO/SB/47) and Request for Customer Number (see PTO/SB/125) are submitted.

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to JoAnne Burke at (571) 272-4584.

/JoAnne Burke/  
JoAnne Burke  
Petitions Examiner  
Office of Petitions

cc: Melinda Earl Gibbs  
8495 Redwood Creek Lane  
San Diego, CA 92126